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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/612,687	07/01/2003	Scott Walter	191.0014901	4395

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EXAMINER

KLEBE, GERALD B

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3618

DATE MAILED: 08/17/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

## Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/612,687

Applicant(s)

WALTER, SCOTT

Examiner

Gerald B. Klebe

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
  - If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
  - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
  - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 July 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-42 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-28 and 30-41 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 29 and 42 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 01 July 2003 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 7/01/2003
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

*G B Klebe*  
*10 August 2004*

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Introduction***

1. In a telephone interview with the Attorney of record, Mr. Michael A. Baffa, Reg. No. 42,279 on August 4, 2004, the examiner discussed with the Attorney a restriction requirement to be developed in the case. However, this has been reconsidered by the examiner and will not be a requirement. Instead, an examination on the merits follows below.

### ***Specification - Objection(s)***

2. A. The specification is objected-to for failing to follow recommended guidelines of preferred layout and content.

The following guidelines illustrate the preferred layout for the specification of a utility application. These guidelines are suggested for the applicant's use.

### **Arrangement of the Specification**

As provided in 37 CFR 1.77(b), the specification of a utility application should include the following sections in order. Each of the lettered items should appear in upper case, without underlining or bold type, as a section heading. If no text follows the section heading, the phrase "Not Applicable" should follow the section heading:

- (a) TITLE OF THE INVENTION.
- (b) CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS.
- (c) STATEMENT REGARDING FEDERALLY SPONSORED RESEARCH OR DEVELOPMENT.
- (d) INCORPORATION-BY-REFERENCE OF MATERIAL SUBMITTED ON A COMPACT DISC (See 37 CFR 1.52(e)(5) and MPEP 608.05. Computer program listings (37 CFR 1.96(c)), "Sequence Listings" (37 CFR 1.821(c)), and tables having more than 50 pages of text are permitted to be submitted on compact discs.) or  
REFERENCE TO A "MICROFICHE APPENDIX" (See MPEP § 608.05(a). "Microfiche Appendices" were accepted by the Office until March 1, 2001.)
- (e) BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION.
  - (1) Field of the Invention.
  - (2) Description of Related Art including information disclosed under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98.
- (f) BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION.

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- (g) BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SEVERAL VIEWS OF THE DRAWING(S).
- (h) DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION.
- (i) CLAIM OR CLAIMS (commencing on a separate sheet).
- (j) ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE (commencing on a separate sheet).
- (k) SEQUENCE LISTING (See MPEP § 2424 and 37 CFR 1.821-1.825. A "Sequence Listing" is required on paper if the application discloses a nucleotide or amino acid sequence as defined in 37 CFR 1.821(a) and if the required "Sequence Listing" is not submitted as an electronic document on compact disc).

#### **Content of Specification**

- (a) Title of the Invention: See 37 CFR 1.72(a) and MPEP § 606. The title of the invention should be placed at the top of the first page of the specification unless the title is provided in an application data sheet. The title of the invention should be brief but technically accurate and descriptive, preferably from two to seven words may not contain more than 500 characters.
- (b) Cross-References to Related Applications: See 37 CFR 1.78 and MPEP § 201.11.
- (c) Statement Regarding Federally Sponsored Research and Development: See MPEP § 310.
- (d) Incorporation-By-Reference Of Material Submitted On a Compact Disc: The specification is required to include an incorporation-by-reference of electronic documents that are to become part of the permanent United States Patent and Trademark Office records in the file of a patent application. See 37 CFR 1.52(e) and MPEP § 608.05. Computer program listings (37 CFR 1.96(c)), "Sequence Listings" (37 CFR 1.821(c)), and tables having more than 50 pages of text were permitted as electronic documents on compact discs beginning on September 8, 2000.

Or alternatively, Reference to a "Microfiche Appendix": See MPEP § 608.05(a). "Microfiche Appendices" were accepted by the Office until March 1, 2001.

- (e) Background of the Invention: See MPEP § 608.01(c). The specification should set forth the Background of the Invention in two parts:
  - (1) Field of the Invention: A statement of the field of art to which the invention pertains. This statement may include a paraphrasing of the applicable U.S. patent classification definitions of the subject matter of the claimed invention. This item may also be titled "Technical Field."
  - (2) Description of the Related Art including information disclosed under 37 CFR 1.97 and 37 CFR 1.98: A description of the related art known to the

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applicant and including, if applicable, references to specific related art and problems involved in the prior art which are solved by the applicant's invention. This item may also be titled "Background Art."

- (f) Brief Summary of the Invention: See MPEP § 608.01(d). A brief summary or general statement of the invention as set forth in 37 CFR 1.73. The summary is separate and distinct from the abstract and is directed toward the invention rather than the disclosure as a whole. The summary may point out the advantages of the invention or how it solves problems previously existent in the prior art (and preferably indicated in the Background of the Invention). In chemical cases it should point out in general terms the utility of the invention. If possible, the nature and gist of the invention or the inventive concept should be set forth. Objects of the invention should be treated briefly and only to the extent that they contribute to an understanding of the invention.
- (g) Brief Description of the Several Views of the Drawing(s): See MPEP § 608.01(f). A reference to and brief description of the drawing(s) as set forth in 37 CFR 1.74.
- (h) Detailed Description of the Invention: See MPEP § 608.01(g). A description of the preferred embodiment(s) of the invention as required in 37 CFR 1.71. The description should be as short and specific as is necessary to describe the invention adequately and accurately. Where elements or groups of elements, compounds, and processes, which are conventional and generally widely known in the field of the invention described and their exact nature or type is not necessary for an understanding and use of the invention by a person skilled in the art, they should not be described in detail. However, where particularly complicated subject matter is involved or where the elements, compounds, or processes may not be commonly or widely known in the field, the specification should refer to another patent or readily available publication which adequately describes the subject matter.
- (i) Claim or Claims: See 37 CFR 1.75 and MPEP § 608.01(m). The claim or claims must commence on separate sheet or electronic page (37 CFR 1.52(b)(3)). Where a claim sets forth a plurality of elements or steps, each element or step of the claim should be separated by a line indentation. There may be plural indentations to further segregate subcombinations or related steps. See 37 CFR 1.75 and MPEP § 608.01(i)-(p).
- (j) Abstract of the Disclosure: See MPEP § 608.01(f). A brief narrative of the disclosure as a whole in a single paragraph of 150 words or less commencing on a separate sheet following the claims. In an international application which has entered the national stage (37 CFR 1.491(b)), the applicant need not submit an abstract commencing on a separate sheet if an abstract was published with the international application under PCT Article 21. The abstract that appears on the cover page of the pamphlet published by the International Bureau (IB) of the

World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) is the abstract that will be used by the USPTO. See MPEP § 1893.03(e).

- (k) Sequence Listing. See 37 CFR 1.821-1.825 and MPEP §§ 2421-2431. The requirement for a sequence listing applies to all sequences disclosed in a given application, whether the sequences are claimed or not. See MPEP § 2421.02.

### **Informalities Objected-to**

- B. The specification is objected-to for the following informalities:

Page 1, line 9: recites that the figure 1 shows a perspective front view of one embodiment of the invention; however, it appears that the view depicted in figure 1 is more appropriately termed a perspective side view.

Page 2, line 8: the word “ovular” should be --oval--.

Appropriate correction or clarification is required.

### ***Drawings***

3. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore,

a) the heel securing member as recited in claims 12, 25 and 38 must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s);

b) the adjustment mechanism of the foot securing member as recited in claims 8, 22 and 35 must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s);

c) the adjustment mechanism of the heel securing member as recited in claim 13, 26 and 39 must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s);

d) the structure of the recitations of each of the claims 14, 27 and 40 whereby at least one securing member and at least one heel securing member are each secured to the board by

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a mechanism selected from a group comprised of a screw penetrating the board and penetrating a plurality of holes of the securing member and the heel securing member, and a portion of the securing member penetrating one of the plurality of holes penetrating the board and being tied off in a knot at a bottom surface of the board; and,

e) the plurality of recesses in the bottom surface to accommodate the screw(s) or knot(s) as recited in claims 15, 28 and 41 must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s).

No new matter should be entered.

Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. The replacement sheet(s) should be labeled "Replacement Sheet" in the page header (as per 37 CFR 1.84(c)) so as not to obstruct any portion of the drawing figures. If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

#### **INFORMATION ON HOW TO EFFECT DRAWING CHANGES**

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**Replacement Drawing Sheets**

Drawing changes must be made by presenting replacement figures which incorporate the desired changes and which comply with 37 CFR 1.84. An explanation of the changes made must be presented either in the drawing amendments, or remarks, section of the amendment. Any replacement drawing sheet must be identified in the top margin as "Replacement Sheet" (37 CFR 1.121(d)) and include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even though only one figure may be amended. The figure or figure number of the amended drawing(s) must not be labeled as "amended." If the changes to the drawing figure(s) are not accepted by the examiner, applicant will be notified of any required corrective action in the next Office action. No further drawing submission will be required, unless applicant is notified.

Identifying indicia, if provided, should include the title of the invention, inventor's name, and application number, or docket number (if any) if an application number has not been assigned to the application. If this information is provided, it must be placed on the front of each sheet and centered within the top margin.

**Annotated Drawing Sheets**

A marked-up copy of any amended drawing figure, including annotations indicating the changes made, may be submitted or required by the examiner. The annotated drawing sheets must be clearly labeled as "Annotated Marked-up Drawings" and accompany the replacement sheets.

**Timing of Corrections**

Applicant is required to submit acceptable corrected drawings within the time period set in the Office action. See 37 CFR 1.85(a). Failure to take corrective action within the set period will result in ABANDONMENT of the application.

If corrected drawings are required in a Notice of Allowability (PTOL-37), the new drawings **MUST** be filed within the **THREE MONTH** shortened statutory period set for reply in the "Notice of Allowability." Extensions of time may **NOT** be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 for filing the corrected drawings after the mailing of a Notice of Allowability.

***Claims Objections***

4. The claims are objected-to for the following informalities:

Claims 2, 18 and 31, each in line 2: the word "ovular" should be --oval--;

Claims 4, 19 and 32, each in line 2, ends improperly with an ellipsis (...); claims must end with a period (.);



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Claim 11 in line 1: insert --is-- between “member” and “arranged”; and delete “in”;

Claim 16, in line 4: the word “of” should be --or by --;

Claims 24 and 37, each in line 2: delete “in”;

Claims 29 in line 4: “of” should be --or by--;

Claim 42 in line 4: the second occurrence of the word “of” should be --or by--.

***Claims Rejections - 35 USC §112***

5. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

6. Claims 6-7, 14-15, 27-28, 34, and 40-41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

a. Claim 6 in lines 1-2 recites “said top surface”; there is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim;

b. In claims 7 and 34 the phrase “rubber-like” renders the claim(s) indefinite because the claim(s) include(s) elements not actually disclosed (those encompassed by “-like”), thereby rendering the scope of the claim(s) unascertainable. See MPEP § 2173.05(d).

c. Claims 14, 27, and 40 appear to have a garbled recitation. The claims seem to be reciting a group comprised of a screw ....being tied off in a knot at a bottom surface of the board. It is not clear how a screw is “tied off”.

Appropriate correction is required.

For the purposes of further examination on the merits the recitations of claims 14, 27 and 40 will be interpreted as meaning that at least one securing member and at least one heel

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securing member are each secured to the board by a mechanism selected from either a screw penetrating one of a plurality of holes penetrating the board and one of a plurality of holes penetrating the securing member and the heel securing member, or from a portion of the securing member and a portion of the heel securing member penetrating one of a plurality of holes penetrating the board and being secured at a bottom surface of the board.

***Claims Rejections - 35 USC §102***

7. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

8. Claims 1- 3, 7, 10-12, 14, as understood by the examiner, and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Simon (US 6196558), cited by Applicant.

Simon discloses a device for use on a trampoline comprising: (re: claim 1) a board having a front and back and wherein the front and back ends are curved up from a horizontal plane of the trampoline and having at least one user's foot-securing member secured to the board; and, wherein (claim 2) the board is generally oval (refer Fig 1A), and (claim 3) is substantially shallow and U-shaped (refer Fig 2); and wherein (claim 7) at least one securing member is made of a nylon material (refer col 5, line 33); and wherein (claim 10) the at least one securing member consists of a first and a second securing member (refer Fig 3); and wherein (claim 11) the first securing member is arranged at an angle to the second (refer Fig 3); and wherein (claim 12) the securing member further includes at least one heel securing member; and wherein (claim 14) the at least one securing member and the at least one heel securing member are secured to the

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board by a mechanism comprised of a plurality of holes penetrating the board (refer Fig 1B) and the at least one securing member and the at least one heel securing member each penetrating one of the plurality of holes and being secured at a bottom surface of the board (refer Fig 4 and associated text); and wherein (claim 15) the bottom surface includes a plurality of recesses (refer col 4, lines 55-60, and col 4, line 67 to col 5, line 3) to accommodate that portion of the securing members that is secured on the bottom of the board.

***Claims Rejections - 35 USC §103***

9. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

10. Claims 4-6 and 8-9 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Simon (US 6196558), cited by Applicant.

As discussed above, Simon discloses all of the features of claim 1 from which claims 4-6 and 8-9 depend and all the features of claim 12 from which claim 13 depends. Simon lacks explicit disclosure wherein the board is made of a foam material (claim 4); and made of a non-slip material (claim 5); and wherein a non-slip layer is rigidly secured to the top (claim 6); and wherein (claim 8) the user-foot securing member includes an adjustment mechanism; and wherein (claim 13) the heel securing member includes and adjustment mechanism.

However, relative to the limitations of claim 4 and claim 6 the examiner takes Official Notice that it is old and well-known in the sport-board manufacturing arts as a matter of engineering design and trade-off considerations to make these boards of foam material (claim 4)

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in order to provide boards that are strong but of light-weight, and to make them of non-slip materials (claim 5), and to affix non-slip layers to the top surface (claim 6) in order to ensure that the user has secure footing when riding the board.

Regarding the further features of claims 8-9 and 13 Simon teaches a sports board using straps of various types having attachments of various types (claim 9) to close the straps over the foot and heel of the user (refer col 5, lines 4-38) and (regarding claim 9) to use attached buckles and attached hook and loop fasteners (refer col 5, lines 31-38), but is silent about the adjustability of these (claim 8 and claim 13). However, the examiner takes Official Notice that it is old and well-known in the sports board arts to provide adjustment features on the closures of bindings used to secure a user's feet to a sports board. Therefore, it would have obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art as a matter of design choice to have incorporated an adjustment mechanism into the securing members of Simon in order to ensure that the foot securing members and the heel securing members would be adaptable to user's having different shoe sizes or types.

11. Claims 17-26, 27 as understood by the examiner, 28, 30-39, 40 as understood by the examiner, and 41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Simon (US 6196558), cited by Applicant.

Simon discloses a device for use on a trampoline comprising: (re: claim 17) a board wherein the front and back ends of the board are each curved up from a horizontal plane of the trampoline, forming a generally elongated U-shape; and having two securing members attached to the board and adapted to receive a user's foot (refer Figs 1A, 2, and 6); and (re: claim 30) the first and second securing members penetrating through the top surface and being attached at the

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bottom surface of the board (refer Fig 1B, Fig 4, and associated text); and wherein (claims 18 and 31) the board is generally oval shaped (Fig 3); and wherein (claims 21 and 34) each of the two securing members is made of a nylon material (refer col 4, lines 37-41); and wherein (claims 24 and 37) the two securing members are arranged at an angle to one another (Fig 3); and wherein (claims 25 and 38) each of the two securing members further includes a heel securing member; and wherein (claims 27 and 40) the at least one securing member and the at least one heel securing member are secured to the board by a mechanism comprised of a plurality of holes penetrating the board (Fig 1B) and the securing member and the heel securing member each penetrating one of the plurality of holes and being secured at a bottom surface of the board (Fig 4, and refer col 5, lines 51-54); and (claims 28 and 41) wherein the bottom surface further includes a plurality of recesses (refer col 4, lines 55-60 and col 4, line 68 to col 5, line 3).

Simon is silent regarding the further limitation of each of claims 17 and 30 wherein the device has a non-slip layer secured to the top surface of the board.

However, the Examiner takes Official Notice that it is old and well-known in the manufacturing of sports boards to have non-slip attachments applied to the top surface of boards.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the instant invention was made to have modified the board of Simon to include a non-slip attachment on the top surface as a design choice based upon considerations of safety to ensure the user had secure footing when using the board.

Regarding the features of claims 19-20, and 32-33, Simon lacks explicit disclosure wherein the board is made of a foam material (claims 19 and 32); and wherein the board is made of a non-slip material (claims 20 and 33).

However, relative to the limitations of these claims, the examiner takes Official Notice that it is old and well-known in the sport-board manufacturing arts as a matter of engineering design and trade-off considerations related to the anticipated environment of use of the board to make the boards of foam material (claims 19 and 32) in order to provide boards that are strong but light-weight, and to make them of non-slip materials (claims 20 and 33) to ensure that the user has secure footing whenever standing on or using the board.

Regarding the features of claims 22-23, and 26, and the features of claims 35-36, and 39, Simon teaches a sports board using straps of various types having attachments of various types including buckles and hook-and-loop fasteners to secure the straps over the foot and heel of the user (refer col 5, lines 4-47), but is silent about the adjustability of these. However, the examiner takes Official Notice that it is old and well-known in the sports board arts to provide adjustability features on the closures of bindings using buckles or hook-and-loop fasteners to secure a user's feet to a sports board.

Therefore, it would have obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art as a matter of design choice to have incorporated an adjustment mechanism into the securing members and the heel securing members of Simon in order to ensure that the foot securing members and the heel securing members would be adaptable quickly to user's having different sizes and/or types of shoes.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

12. Claim 16 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph, set forth in this Office action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 29 and 42 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

***Prior Art made of Record***

13. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The prior art of Yagi teaches that various types of sports boards such as snowboards, skateboards and skiboards share common features; Daly and also Kane teach a sports board to be used with a trampoline; Mehrmann et al. teaches a sportsboard constructed of a foam material having a slippery underside and a non-slip material adhered to the topside to support the user; Toft teaches bindings for the feet of a user of a sports board wherein the bindings are secured to the board by means of screws that penetrate holes in the board and the bindings structures; Baron teaches a non-slip device rigidly affixed to the topside of a sportsboard located for the feet of a user; Gifford teaches a flexible strap binding for the foot and heel of a sports board user, the straps being adjustable and having hook-and-loop fasteners; Stuart teaches a safety strap coupling a user to a sports board the safety strap being attached to the sports board with screws; Kolbeinson teaches foot bindings for a sports board using buckles to secure the feet and having adjustable features to accommodate users with different size feet/shoes; Quinn teaches a round sports board for a standing user; Negus teaches a securing device holding a sports board to the leg of the user; Fournier teaches that various types of sports board have features in common and use common or similar technologies; Phillips teaches a sports board with non-slip surface for the user. These references also show other structures in common with other features of the inventive concept of the instant application.


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***Conclusion***

14. Any inquiry concerning this or earlier communication(s) from the examiner should be directed to Gerald B. Klebe at 703-305-0578, fax 703-872-9306; Mon.-Fri., 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM ET, or to Supervisory Patent Examiner Christopher P. Ellis, Art Unit 3618, at 703-308-2560.

Official correspondence should be sent to the following TC 3600 Official Rightfax numbers as follows: Regular correspondence: 703-872-9326; After Finals: 703-872-9327; Customer Service: 703-872-9325.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

  
gbklebe

/ Art Unit 3618 / 10 August 2004



CHRISTOPHER P. ELLIS  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600